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RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 7382  
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3851  
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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009

In Today's Papers

Corfu Meeting to Unlock Process with Yerevan (Sabah)  
Mainstream, pro-government Sabah reports FM Ahmet Davutoglu will meet with Armenian FM Edouard Nalbandian on the Greek Corfu Island during the OSCE meetings there June 27-28. In mid-July, the Azerbaijani President Aliyev and Armenian Presidents Sargsian are expected to meet in Russia. However, Sabah notes no progress is expected soon in the Yerevan-Ankara dialogue. Davutoglu is expected to tell Nalbandian if no progress is seen in the Nagorno Karabakh question, the April 22nd action plan that was agreed on cannot be implemented. Davutoglu will also meet the Russian FM Lavrov and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Matt Bryza in Corfu, reports Sabah.

Baykal on The Action Plan for "Fighting Reactionary Movements"  
Media outlets report CHP leader Deniz Baykal commented on a copy of a document that allegedly indicates a military plot to overthrow the AKP government. "If there are plots in the Turkish military without the knowledge of the TGS, that would be grave; if state authority is being used to conspire against the Turkish military, then that would be even more grave," said Baykal, reminding that the Colonel who allegedly signed the document was "still in office." Baykal asked what was holding the government back from "coming to terms with the September 12 military coup."

Court to Decide Today on Mor Gabriel Monastery (Hurriyet)  
Mainstream Hurriyet reports a court in will deliver its verdict today about a land dispute regarding the 1,600-year-old Mor Gabriel Monastery in the southeastern Anatolian town of Midyat, home to around 3,000 Syrians. Yilmaz Kerimo, a Swedish deputy of Syriac origin who attended the hearings as an observer, hopes the court will recognize the boundaries of Mor Gabriel monastery. "The monastery is not a property for sale and branding Syrians as invaders is a disgrace for Turkey," said Kerimo.

Merrill Lynch: Turkey will Grow 4.5 Percent 2010-2019 (Yeni Safak)  
Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak reports Merrill Lynch said between 2010 and 2019, Turkey's economy will grow with by an annual average of 4.5 percent over the next decade, which means Turkey is a country that will grow more rapidly than others.

Pentagon Sends 'Chip Weapons' to Iraq, Afghanistan (Hurriyet)  
Mainstream Hurriyet reports from Washington the Pentagon has sent 'traceable chip weapons' to Iraq and Afghanistan. The chips allow the U.S. military to track the weapons, and therefore to detect which groups get a hold of the weapons. A portion of the weapons sent to Iraq are now in the hands of the PKK organization, claims Hurriyet.

"A Crisis Breaks Out with London" (Haberturk)  
Media emphasize the rising tensions between Europe and Iran over the treatment of protestors who opposed the official tally in the June 12th presidential elections. Islamist-oriented Zaman reports "Western diplomats in Tehran were warned not to meddle in Iran's internal affairs," as, "Obama condemns Tehran," and "President Obama stepped up his criticism (of the Tehran administration) yesterday and expressed 'shock and outrage' at the crackdown against protestors in Iran." Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak reports, "The Tehran-Europe Line is Strained," and "The French and Dutch ambassadors to Tehran were called in to the foreign ministry and warned," while, "Iran decided to take revenge and declare two British diplomats persona non grata." In addition, the paper notes "U.S. President Barack Obama answered claims the U.S. was behind the demonstrations by calling the claims 'fabricated and ridiculous.'" Liberal Radikal headlines, "The Iran-Britain Crisis Reminds of 1979," as "Religious leader Ali Hosseini-Khamenei criticized Britain during last Friday's prayers," and "Foreign Minister Mottaki accused some Brits of being behind the opposition's activities." Meanwhile, Radikal also notes "Obama denounced violence," used against the protestors but he noted "We are not meddling in Iran's domestic

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affairs." Nevertheless, leftist Taraf reports from Tehran, "It is expected that Ahmadinejad will begin his term within the next month."

Columnists See Serious Trouble Ahead for Iran's Regime  
Sami Kohen wrote in mainstream Milliyet: "Iran's election results are still debatable because of irregularities and the daily growth of the people's opposition movement. It is hard to understand the silence in Ankara regarding developments in Iran. In principle, this is Iran's internal affair but that does not necessarily stop Turkey from expressing its opinions and concerns about developments in a neighboring country." Cengiz Candar wrote in liberal-intellectual Radikal: "Whenever any regime begins taking its own people's lives, it is a sign of the regime's demise. Iran is not an exemption to this rule and by killing its own citizens, the Iranian regime can no longer properly function. All of this also destroys the regime's argument about the legitimacy of its elections. It may not happen soon, but the Iranian regime is headed toward demise." Yasemin Congar wrote in leftist Taraf: "In the midst of ongoing protests, Musavi found himself in a greater position than he could have imagined. At first, he was asking for a little more freedom and seeking to integrate Iran into the global community within the limits of the current regime. However the intensity of protestors has made him a strong opposition figure. The current regime has completely lost support from moderate Iranians, and the country is moving to a new phase."

Did the U.S., Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan make a secret deal regarding Manas Air Base?  
Leftist nationalist Cumhuriyet headlines, "Bishkek Changed Its Mind," as "the U.S. put down money and took back Manas." Mainstream Sabah headlines, "The U.S., Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan Reached A Secret Agreement," and the paper notes, "Last month President Gul visited Kyrgyzstan and discussed the base," and "The U.S. will with give up to \$1 billion in aid to Uzbekistan and Turkey will make investments in the country," in exchange for "limited use of the base to transport non-military supplies to NATO forces in Afghanistan." Columnist Ibrahim Karagul of Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak says Gul's visit to Bishkek "delivered Manas air base back to the U.S." and he calls Gul's gesture "The biggest award from Gul to Obama."

Israel Continues Settlement Construction in West Bank  
Mainstream Sabah headlines, "Despite The U.S., Construction in The West Bank Continues," as Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak

"approved a plan to construct 300 new homes in the West Bank," and "Both U.S. President Obama and the EU have stated they are against the construction of new settlements."

In a related story, mainstream Hurriyet reports Izak Aharonovic, Israel's public security minister, paid a visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Aharonovic said his visit was a "routine" one whereas the al-Aqsa Foundation said the visit had been 'provocative.'

TV News (CNN Turk)

Domestic

- A Swedish parliamentary delegation visits DTP activists in prison.
- The head of the DTP branch in Suruc - Sanliurfa, Ahmet Yenilmez, is arrested on charges of making terror propaganda.
- 22 newly appointed governors met with President Abdullah Gul and Prime Minister Erdogan before taking their new posts.
- Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek says the government will take the necessary legal action against municipalities that fail to meet their debts.

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World

- Iranian top election watchdog, the Guardian Council, rules out overturning the disputed presidential election.
- Egyptian sources are saying that abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit will be transferred from the Gaza Strip into Egypt, while Israeli security officials deny the report as "unfounded."
- At least 45 militants are killed by a missile fired by a U.S. drone aircraft in South Waziristan, Pakistani intelligence officials say.
- Mahinur Ozdemir, a Belgian national of Turkish origin, swears in as member of the Brussels parliament while wearing her Islamic-style headscarf.

JEFFREY